

THURSDAY COLLOQUIUM

After Displacement: Relocating Social inequalities in Resettlement

SPEAKER:

Joël Cabalion

Associate Professor, University of Tours

DATE AND TIME:

May 18, 2023 (Thursday), 11:30 A.M.

VENUE:

CSSS Committee Room (Room No. 013)

Abstract

Naya Ambhora is a multi-caste agrarian locality of Central India, Maharashtra, composed of four former villages displaced by the Gosikhurd large dam and today resettled in a single administrative unit. It has been more than fifteen years since the new layout sprung out of agricultural land and began hosting new existences, dispossessed of much of what people had always owed and known, now ruins submerged in the reservoir waters or dispersed patches of land swallowed by dense and humid vegetation of this new riverine landscape. What happened to these rural communities made up of mostly farmers, daily labourers, petty merchants, and fishermen? How have villagers coped with their forced displacement and their subsequent relocation? How can one apprehend inequalities, biographical ruptures, and continuities between the old and the new site of living? This presentation would like to revisit previous (personal) analyses of the material and symbolic dimensions of displacement already unfolded in different publications. Dispossession and public policies of compensation shape an unequal structure of redistribution of resources strongly nourished by previous inequalities of caste and class allocations. *What happened to these inequalities of chances of resettlement?* How people accept, resist, or bypass these unequal chances in the reconstruction of their lives is a major subject of attention for social scientists who wish to understand what happens after displacement.

About the Speaker:

Joël Cabalion is Associate Professor in anthropology and sociology at the University of Tours, affiliated to Cité Territoires Environnement et Sociétés (CITERES) research centre as well as the Centre of Himalayan and South Asian Studies in Paris (CESAH). He is presently Researcher at the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH) in New Delhi and head of the research area “Questioning development: models, dynamics, and impacts. His central work focuses on dam-induced displacement and resettlement based on the longitudinal study of four localities in the rural region of Vidarbha, Maharashtra. He has also studied extensively agrarian social movements as well as the cultural space of *Bheem Geet*, songs of emancipation and people’s education dedicated to Bhimrao Ambedkar and circulated widely amongst Dalits in Maharashtra.

All are cordially invited.